

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 JERUSA 01267 040837Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 SSM-03 OMB-01 TRSY-02 EUR-12 /096 W
-----016005 040843Z /10

R 031501Z MAY 78 ZDK
FM AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 882
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L JERUSALEM 1267

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, IS, JO
SUBJ: SHAKE-UP IN WEST BANK MILGOV - WEST BANK REACTION

REF: (A) JERUSALEM 1256; (B) JERUSALEM 386

SUMMARY: THE SHAKE-UP IN THE WEST BANK MILGOV AS A RESULT OF THE COVER-UP OF THE BEIT JALA INCIDENT HAS BEEN GREETED WITH UNCONCEALED DELIGHT BY WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. OPTIMISTS BELIEVE THAT MILGOV OFFICIALS IN GENERAL WILL NOW THINK AGAIN BEFORE RESORT TO UNNECESSARY FORCE. SKEPTICS BELIEVE WEIZMAN HAS MERELY ATTENDED TO PUBLIC RELATIONS OR WANTS TO EASE INTO SELF RULE. ACCOUNTABILITY, DISCIPLINE AND HONESTY IN IDF OPERATION AS MUCH A FACTOR IN WEIZMAN ACTION AS THE EXCESSIVE USE OF FORCE IN THE ORIGINAL INCIDENT.
END SUMMARY.

2. SACKING OF WEST BANK MILGOV AND COURTMARTIAL OF BETHLEHEM DISTRICT MILGOV AND HIS DEPUTY HAVE BEEN GREETED WITH UNCONCEALED DELIGHT BY WEST BANK PALESTINIANS. BATHLEHEM ULTRA-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 JERUSA 01267 040837Z

MODERATE MAJOR ELIAS FREIJ, WHO HAS LONG HAD HIS DIFFICULTIES WITH THE BETHLEHEM MILGOV, CREDITED THE "VIRTUAL COUP D'ETAT" TO "TIME" CORRESPONDENT DON NEFF WHOM HE PROPOSES TO MAKE AN HONORARY CITIZEN OF BETHLEHEM. BETHLEHEM'S MUNICIPAL SECRETARY CALLED THE DECISION A POSITIVE STEP WHICH SHOULD MEET WITH A POSITIVE RESPONSE FROM WEST BANKERS.

3. NABLUS UNRWA OFFICER USIF RIDDA SAID HE BELIEVED MILITARY AUTHORITIES WILL NOW "THINK A HUNDRED TIMES" BEFORE RESORTING TO INDISCRIMINATE FORCE. POINTING OUT THAT USE OF TEAR GAS IN UNRWA SCHOOLS WAS NO NOVELTY, RIDDA DREW OBVIOUS CONCLUSION THAT A PICTURE IN "TIME" WAS WORTH A THOUSAND WORDS OF PROTEST BY WEST BANKERS. SIGNIFICANTLY, RIDDA GAVE A RELATIVELY MILD ACCOUNT OF THE IDF'S CONDUCT DURING THE SIX-DAY CURFEW IN NABLUS WHICH ENDED MAY 2.

4. A FEW WEST BANKERS FOUND A PIT IN THE OLIVE. BETHLEHEM'S DEPUTY MAYOR OPINED THAT ISRAEL WAS MERELY TRYING TO WRAP THE OCCUPATION IN A VEIL OF DEMOCRACY TO RESTORE ITS IMAGE BADLY-DAMAGED IN WESTERN EYES. THE MUNICIPAL LAWYER SUGGESTED THAT WEIZMAN WAS ACTUALLY PREPARING A BETTER CLIMATE FOR UNILATERAL IMPOSITION OF BEGIN'S AUTONOMY SCHEME.

5. ACCORDING TO STRINGER FOR THE "CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR" (WHO FIRST GAVE US SOTRY YESTERDAY) WEIZMAN MADE HIS DECISION TO SACK WEST BANK MILGOV HAGOEL IN THE EVENING OF MAY 2. WEIZMAN WAS ANGERED BY HAGOEL'S FAILURE TO REPORT FULLY AND ACCURATELY ABOUT THE ORIGINAL BEIT JALA INCIDENT AND ABOUT A LEAK TO RADIO ISAREL APRIL 2. THAT THE DEPUTY MILGOV OF BETHLEHEM HAD BEEN REPRIMANDED. CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 JERUSA 01267 040837Z

THE LATTER, WEIZMAN REPORTEDLY FELT, WAS AN ATTEMPT BY HAGOEL TO MAKE THE SUBORDINATE A SCAPEGOAT. AS PART OF AN ATTEMPT TO RESTORE IDF CREDIBILITY, WEIZMAN HAS DECIDED TO ABOLISH THE POSITION OF WEST BANK MILGOV SPOKESMAN AND CHARGE HIS OWN SPOKESMAN WITH INVESTIGATING MATTERS RAISED BY JOURNALIST, OUR SOURCE REPORTS.

6. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH WEIZMAN HAD MAD SOME CONCILIATORY GESTURES TO WEST BANK PALESTINIANS ON FEBRUARY 8, (REFTTEL B) WE SUSPECT HIS ACTION ARE AIMED MORE AT MAINTAINING THE INTEGRITY AND DISCIPLINE OF THE IDF THAN CHANGING FUNDAMENTALLY THE CONDUCT OF THE OCCUPATION. NEVER-THELESS, IF THE STANDING ORDERS WHICH THE BETHLEHEM MILGOV ALLEGEDLY DISOBEYED BECOME PUBLIC KNOLEDGE, THEN PROSPECTS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY MIGHT IMPROVE. KRUSE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PALESTINIANS, WEST BANK, PUBLIC ATTITUDES, MILITARY GOVERNMENT, COURTS MARTIAL, SCHOOLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 03 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978JERUSA01267
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780190-0202
Format: TEL
From: JERUSALEM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780598/aaaadfxs.tel
Line Count: 109
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: f33d23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 JERUSALEM 1256, 78 JERUSALEM 386
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2807733
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHAKE-UP IN WEST BANK MILGOV - WEST BANK REACTION
TAGS: PINS, PINT, SHUM, IS, JO, (HAGDEL, DAVID)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/f33d23a5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014